THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE Army under the Command OF Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, From the first of *July* to the sixth.

Containing the Story of the

CLUB-MEN,

And Relief of

TAUNTON.

Wherein is expressed

The *Propositions* of the CLUB-MEN,

And Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX

His *Answer* unto them.

Sent from Mr. *Bowles* (Chaplain to Sir *Thomas Fairfax*) to a Friend of his in LONDON.

Published according to Order.

London, Printed for *Samuel Gellibrand*, *July* 11. 1645.

R28116

JULY 1.

NOt to expreſſe my own affectation, or ſatisfie others curioſity, but in love to Truth, and this Army, both which are ſometimes abuſed by the frivolous and contradictory accounts, given by the Higling Diurnals, who are reſolved, true or falſe, good or bad, to make up their Sheet. I have perſwaded my ſelf to this trouble, well knowing the perplexity of ſuch an undertaking, wherein the opinions and reputations of ſo many are concerned, and the unpleaſantneſſe of it, when the variety of ſucceſſe ſhall make me a Meſſenger of ill tidings: But that God may have the honour of what he doth for us, and by us; and that men, for want of a true and impartiall Information, may not fall out with the Inſtruments of their own good, I ſhall proceed.

After that it had pleaſed God in the midſt of our enemies deſpight, and friends deſpair, to look upon us, and uſe us Inſtruments of his Juſtice upon an enemy fill'd with ſin and pride; and of his Mercy to this Nation, in the late Victory at *Nableby*-Field, which he was pleaſed to crown with the ſpeedy and happy regaining of *Leiceſter*, which ſhould teach us not to judge of any thing too ſoon, but wait for the counſell of God, which hath ſince made it appear, that *Leiceſter* was loſt, that both God and this Kingdom might gain by that loſſe. The Army marched toward *Warwick* ſolicitous in nothing ſo much as which way they might beſt ſerve the Publike: And being very doubtfull, whether it were better to follow the King, and hinder his recruting, or go down to the Weſt, to relieve the other part of our Army, who had well deſerved it, and long expected it; Letters were ſent to the Parliament and Committee of both Kingdoms, declaring our indifferency, and willingneſſe, to be ſwayed by their advice and reſolutions; but not willing to loſe any time, we marched on to *Marlborough* with a diſpoſition, either to go over at *Gloueſter* toward the King in *Herefordſhire*, or to move Weſtward, and joyn with Col. *Maſſey* in the Weſtern buſineſſe; for though we knew he would adventure, and do as much as any man, with ſuch a ſtrength; yet the enemy being in common report 12000, and he but little above two, it was thought, that *Goring* might both keep off him, and keep up our men about *Taunton*. Having therefore received notice from the Committee of both Kingdoms, that Letters were

ſent to the *Scotiſh* Army to advance toward *Worceſter*, and that we had their conſent, and the Horſes likewiſe, to march Weſtward, we bent our courſe that way; having yet ſo tender a conſideration of *Glouceſterſhire*, that we ſent Colonell *Butlers* Regiment to lie before *Barkley*-Caſtle, to keep in Sir *Charls Lucas* while the *Glouceſterſhire* Troops might look to the ſecurity of that part of their Countrey beyond *Severn*.

After we had reſted the Lords day at *Marlborough*, we marched from thence toward *Amsbury*, fourteen miles diſtant from *Marlborough*. This day being the Fair-day at *Marlborough*, occaſioned the ſtragling and ſtay of ſome of our Souldiers, who were ſurprized by Souldiers from the *Devizes*, commanded by Major *Dewet*, a *French* Runagado, lately wheel'd off to the King, whom as we hear, ſome Troopers under the Command of Major *Buller* have lately followed. We loſt ſome men there, if it be a loſſe to leave ſuch men, as leave their Colours. But that we might not be wholly beholding to the enemy for the execution of juſtice upon our ſtragglers, one was hang'd that night at *Amesbury*, for going from his Colours, and endeavouring to ſeduce another. From *Amesbury*, the firſt of *July*, we marched by the way of *Wilton* to *Broadchalk* and *Burchalk*, 12 miles, where ſome of us paſſing through *Saliſbury*, took notice of the Club-men, as we call them: Aſſociates they term themſelves, of whom a further account preſently. They wear white Ribbands in their Hats, with *Peace and Truth* interwoven. They have forbidden the Souldiers of the adjacent Garriſons of *Langford*-Houſe and *Falſton*-Houſe, to fight in *Saliſbury*; but to be drunk together, is a ſmall fault in the Cathedrall Calendar. They allow thoſe two Garriſons contribution for the preſent; for which, one Maſter *Hollis* of *Saliſbury* is Treaſurer, and hath a great influence upon this heap of men.

From *Broadchalk* we marched *July* the ſecond to *Blanford*, a Town noted for Malignancy; in our march a Dragooner was hanged for robbing a Countreyman upon the High-way. At *Blandford* there was accidentally a Barn fired, which raiſed a mutuall jealouſie betwixt the Souldiers and the Town, that it was done on purpoſe; But the Townſmen finding themſelves enriched by the Souldiers lying there, began to be perſwaded into a better opinion of the Parliament-Forces, againſt their wills. This night came to us Colonell *Maſſey*, and acquainted us with his ſtrength and condition, and with a quarrell betwixt his men and the Club-men, at

Sturmiſter,

Sturmiſter, in which the Club-men were reduced to reaſon at the laſt.

From *Blandeford*, *July* the third, we marched to *Dorcheſter*, a Town as famous for piety and good affection, as the other for its averſineſſe to good; But divers of the beſt Inhabitants being forced from it, the beauty of the Town is much impaired, and many houſes empty.

In our paſſage from *Blandeford* toward *Dorcheſter*, came to us four Agents from the Club-men of *Dorſetſhire* and *Wiltſhire*; the chief ſpeaker was Maſter *Hollis* of *Dorſetſhire*, Brother to him of *Saliſbury*. Their buſineſſe was to procure a Paſſe from the Generall for theſe perſons to go to the King and Parliament with Petitions.

To the King were to go, Doct. *Henry Goche* (a Gentleman ſubject to miſtakes, when he took the Manciples daughter of *Trinity-Colledge* in *Cambridge*, inſtead of a Wife; but made it good afterward in taking her to Wife) and Maſter *Thomas Browell*, Divines; *John* St. *loe*, *Peter Hoskins*, Eſquire; Maſter *Thomas Young* an Attorney, more eloquent then honeſt, and Maſter *Robert Pawlet*, Gent.

To the Parliament, Maſter *Melchiſedech Wolthan*, Maſter *Richard Hook*, Club-Divines, *Thomas Trenchard*, *Robert Culliford*, Eſquires; *George Haules*, *Richard Newman*, Gentlemen.

Maſter *Hollis* was pleaſed to deliver in the Petitions ſo to be conveyed, as alſo the Articles of Aſſociation. The brief account of both is this.

The Articles are,

THat the *Aſſociates provide Arms*, *Set Watches*, *Be quiet with them that are ſo*; *Lay hold on diſorderly Souldiers*; *Bring them to the next Gariſons*; *Not to refuſe Quarter and Contribution to their ability*, *till their Petitions be delivered*; *Not to favour either Party*; *Or to protect any not Aſſociated.*

The Heads of the Petions are, To *deſire a renewed Treaty*, *With a Ceſſation*; as alſo, *That the Gariſons of* Dorſet *and* Wiltſhire, *be put into their hands*, *till the King and Parliament agree about their diſpoſall*: *That they be free from all Charge*, *but the maintenance of thoſe Gariſons*: *That all Laws not repealed*, *be in force*, *and executed by the ordinary Officers*: *That all men who deſire it*, *may lay down Arms*; *and others*, *Who have abſented themſelves from their dwellings*, *may have free liberty to return*, *and live at home*.

After much speech had with them, and some consultation what to do in the businesse, it pleased the Generall to return his Answer in writing to this purpose.

Although the Paper brought to me, being not subscribed, cannot challenge any Answer; yet, to clear my self from any averssesse to the satisfaction of the Countrey, who are pretended to be interessed in these Petitions; I return this:

That my affections, and the affections of this Army, are as much enclined to Peace as any mens whatsoever; and we undertake the War for no other end then the establishment of a firm and happie Peace, by opposing the enemies thereof: and that I shall be ready, so far as concerns me, to further all lawfull and fit means to procure it.

But having seen the Petitions for the conveyance of which a Letpasse is desired, I must professe my self not so well satisfied with some things contained in them, as to concur to their delivering by any act of mine.

In particular, that a *Cessation* is desired, whilst, by Letters written by the King and Queen, taken at the late Battel of *Naseby*, it evidently appears, that Contracts are already made for the bringing in Ten thousand *French*, and Six thousand *Irish*.

It is further desired, *That the Garisons in these parts*, whereof three are Sea-ports, *should be delivered up to the Petitioners*; which to grant, were for the Parliament to acquit part of the Trust reposed in them by the Kingdom, and (considering these forreign Preparations) to run very great hazards to these Ports, to themselves, and the whole Kingdom.

Thirdly, it is propounded, *That liberty be given to all Souldiers to disband, and return to their home, if they desire it*; which may with equall justice be desired by all parts of the Kidgdom; and so the Parliament made unable to manage the War, before Peace setled.

These Considerations, with some other yet to be debated, will not allow me to grant the desire of the Letter.

But as for that part of the Petition which declares the grievances of the Countrey, by Plunder and violence committed, either by Garisons or Armies; I do hereby promise and undertake, for the Garisons and Armies under the command of the Parliament, That whatsoever Disorders are committed by them, upon a Complaint making known the Offences and the Persons, Justice shall be done, and satisfaction given. As also, I shall endeavour that the Parliaments

Gari-

Garisons may be regulated according to any reasonable Agreement with the Countrey: and without doubt the Parliament will cause them to be slighted, so soon as the condition of these parts and the publike good shall permit: And that the Army under my command shall be ordered as may be most for the good and advantage of these Counties, and the whole Kingdom: of which, some reasonable testimony is already given, in their quiet and orderly passage thorow these and other Counties, without many of those complaints which usually follow Armies.

I further desire, That in the publishing this my Answer to your Request, all assembling the people to publike Rendevouz may be forborn, and that Copies hereof may be dispersed to the several Parishes, that the Countrey may be acquainted therewith.

THO: FAIRFAX.

After the dispatch of these Club-Ambassadours (I leave it to other men to call them *Knaves of Clubs*, for I will not use my self to ill language) from *Dorchester* we marched toward *Bemister*, and quartered the Army in the field betwixt *Bemister* and *Crookhorn*: but before our march from *Dorchester*, we received notice of a sharp Farewell (for so it proved) given by *Goring* at *Taunton*, wherein he spit his last venom, which our men received with their wonted courage. As also, we had notice of an Encounter betwixt the Governour of *Lyme* and the Club-men, about *Bird-port*: It seems the Club-men assembling, were sent to by the Governour of *Lyme*, who put himself in a condition to receive the worst of Answers. To declare themselves, they rudely tore his Papers, and increased their Sedition: Whereupon, he made toward them, to disperse them, which he did, with the losse of 50 or 60 Club-men, who it seems will not understand Reason, till it be beaten into them. These Club-men were led by an Officer of the Kings: and we understand that *Goring* hath lent them divers of his men to seduce them to disaffection and destruction: But we hope, if we may have some time and liberty, to quench this fire very shortly, though we were unwilling to stir it so long as *Goring* lay before *Taunton*; from whence, this evening of the fourth, we understand by Scouts from *Taunton*, and Prisoners taken at *Crookhorn*, among whom a Lieutenant of Horse, that he drew off yesterday about noon, toward *Ilmister*, and this night is quartered about *Somerton*: Our Army lying betwixt *Bemister* and *Crookhorn*; Colonell *Masseys* party betwixt *Axminster* and *Chard*; we having in these

theſe five days marched from *Marlborough* to *Bemiſter*, which is 62 miles.

On Saturday the fifth, having intelligence that the enemy was marched toward *Somerton*, we marched with the whole body toward *Crookhorn*, having ſent early in the morning a party of 2000 Horſe and Dragoons, under the command of Colonell *Fleetwood*, to diſcover the enemies motion, and take advantage of his Rere, if it were given. This party marched to *Pedderton*, alarm'd the enemy, and drove them firſt over to *Pedderton*-Bridge, then to *Longlode*, and ſo over that Bridge, which made the enemy face about, and bring up Foot, who, with the advantage of ſom Works formerly caſt up, made good the Bridge againſt our Horſe and Dragoons. After this a Brigade of Foot was commanded to march, their Quarters aſſigned at *Crookhorn*, which they obeyed moſt cheerfully, and advanced as far as *Pedderton*: but they being extreme weary, and the night coming on, ſtrong Guards were placed at the Bridge, and the almoſt-tired Horſe drawn into their Quarters; it being a Countrey ſo full of ſtrait paſſages, that it is very hard to engage an unwilling enemy, eſpecially with Forces ſo harraſſed as ours, with ſix days continuall Marches, and thoſe long ones, ſaving the laſt, which the difficulty of the way made equally troubleſom with the former. In this Chaſe, about ten priſoners of the enemy were taken, among whom a Cornet of Dragoons.

Thus hath the Lord graciouſly led us to the end of this week, and enabled us to ſay, *Hitherto hath the Lord helped us*. It remains onely that he be acknowledged in all our ways, that he may direct our paths.

This ſixth of *July*, our Head-quarter is at *Crookhorn*, where its poſſible we may reſt a day or two, but not be idle. And we account it a mercy that the Lord hath ſo diſpoſed of our affairs, that we have had liberty reſt and wait upon him three Lords days together; at *Warwick*, *Marlborough*, and *Crookhorn*, which have been the onely days of reſt we have had ſince we came from *Leiceſter*. The enemy yet continues on the Eaſt ſide the River, which he lately paſſed at *Lode*-bridge, upon which they have three Gariſons, at *Bridgewater*, *Langport*, and *Ilcheſter*. But we hope that God will direct us by his good providence, to ſuch courſe as may be for the good of theſe parts, and the whole Kingdom.

From Crookhorn, July 6.

FINIS.

Numb. 2.

An Exact and Perfect

RELATION

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Army under the Command

OF

Sir *Thomas Fairfax.*

From the ſixth of this inſtant *July*, to the eleventh of the ſame.

Wherein is expreſſed the particulars of the VICTORY obtained by by the PARLIAMENTS Forces, over *Goring*, neer *Langport* in *Sommerſetſhire.*

Dated at Sir *Thomas Fairfax* Quarters at *Middleſey*, 4 Miles from *Bridgewater*, *July* 11.

Publiſhed according to Order.

London, Printed for *Samuel Gellibrand*, *July* 14. 1645.

A Full and True RELATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE Army under the Command OF Sir Thomas Fairfax.

From the Forth of this instant July, to the eleventh of the same.

Wherein is expressed the particulars of the VICTORY obtained by the PARLIAMENTS Forces over Goring, their Enemy in Somersetshire.

Dated at Sir Thomas Fairfax Quarters at Middle(?), 4 Miles from Bridg-water, July 11.

Published according to Order.

London, Printed for Samuel Gellibrand, July 14. 1645.

JULY 7.

AFter the relief of *Taunton*, and our marching to *Crookhorn*, where we reſted the Lords-day, *July* 6. Although our long march, and the wants of our Souldiers challenged ſome refreſhment, yet the Generall, and the reſt of the Officers, could not with patience endure an Enemy ſo near us; and therefore the party from *Taunton* were ſent for, who came to *Pedderton* that night, Colonell *Maſſey* about *Ilminſter*: The Generall ſeeing it very hazardous to free a paſſage at *Longlode* or *Ilcheſter*, marched to *Evil*, thinking to paſſe the River there, or at *Mudford*-Bridge. A little before our coming to *Evil*, *Sherborne* men had broken the Bridge, which was preſently made up; but as it fell out, we had no uſe of it, for the Enemy quitted *Ilcheſter*, a Garriſon of theirs, and left us free entrance on Tueſday, where we quartered on Tueſday night. Little of moment fell out theſe two dayes, *Goring* dancing from one ſide of the River, to the other; ſo that our Officers that came from *Taunton*, had the more free liberty to congratulate our happy ſucceſſes; ours at *Naſeby*, which was a complete victory, their's at *Taunton*, which was more then a deliverance; for they continually affronted the enemy, took from him 400 Horſe at ſeverall times, and ordinarily made bold with their Guards. The poor Souldiers were much afraid, in regard of our delay of relief, that they ſhould have had another *Corniſh Hugg*, as they call'd it, but it pleaſed God to prevent their fears, by this ſeaſonable Mercy.

They lost a Gallant man, Colonell *Floyd*, a Religious experienced Souldier, and Lieutenant Colonell *Richbell*, a stout honest man, and some few Officers besides; some that were hurt, are recovered, as Major *Marshall*, Major *Read*

This day Colonell *Butlers* Regiment, commanded by Major *Fincher*, Quarter-master Generall of our Horse, came near us, and in its march from *Barkley* Castle to us did very good service. First at *Dursley*, they entertained Sir *Charls Lucas* coming to beat up their Quarters, kill'd the Captain of the Forlorn-Hope, after that, charg'd the Party with two Troops, kill'd ten, whereof two Captains, took 29 prisoners, hurt Sir *Charls Lucas*.

From thence they came to *Highworth*, where the Enemy from *Farrington* had entered the Town, whom he beat out, and delivered to the Governour, the quiet possession of his Garrison. From thence to the *Devises*, where they took some Horse, and so to *Dorchester*, where they over took some of *Sherburne* Horse, and so came to us very seasonably, being through Gods providence, neerer an engagement then we expected.

Wednesday, July 9. We divided our Force, and overlook'd the danger through our earnestnesse to discover and dislodge *Gurlog*; but the danger of division was the lesse, in regard that Colonell *Massey* had many Dragoons, at least 2000, and an inclosed Countrey: Whereupon Col. *Massey*'s party, with the addition of Col. *Pyes*, and Col. *Sheffields* Regiments, and all our Dragoons, but one Troop, were sent on the other side the Water, betwixt *Tewkes* and *Langley*, to amuse the Enemy, and take advantages, if he might; which he very diligently did, and came upon a strong Quarter of the Enemies about *North-Curry*, took them before they were well ready, charged, took 9 or 10 Colours, 4 Captains, some

Lieu-

Lievtenants and Cornets, and about 200 men, and more Horſes, with very little loſſe, onely Col. *Cook* ſhot in the face, and Col. *Buller* hurt in the arm. We were not idle on the other ſide, but skirmiſhed at a Paſſe a mile from *Langport*, took one Colours, which led the way to many more the next day.

On *Wedneſday* night, we quartered at *Long Sutton*, and on *Thurſday* morning, the tenth, a *Councell* of *Warre* was called, whether to draw up before *Langport*, and do further as opportunity might be, or withdraw toward *Sherborne* and *Evil*, to refreſh our men, and receive our ſupplies of Arms, Money, and Ammunition, coming to us by Sea; but it pleaſed God to end the buſineſſe by an Alarm given us, that the Enemy had poſſeſſed the Paſſe we formerly skirmiſhed at in *Peſſebury*-Bottom, and ſome of their Foot appeared on the Hill: whereupon, the Forces we had on this ſide the River, were drawn forth: Of Foot, *Weldons*, *Herberts*, *Ingleſbies*, *Forteſcues*, Maj. Generals, *Ruſſels*, *Hammonds*, and *Rainſboroughes* Regiments, with Sir *Hardre Wallers*, & the Pikes of the Generals, *Mountagues* and *Pickerings* Regiments. The Muſketiers of thoſe three Regiments together, with Col. *Ireſons* Regiment of Horſe, being ſent on Wedneſday night to the aſſiſtance of *Maſſey*. All our Horſe, but the three Regiments of Sir *Robert Pye*, Col. *Sheffield*, and Col. *Ireton*, and *Okeys* Dragoons, who were all with Col. *Maſſey*, but one Troop. With theſe, we drew into the Field, about 10 of the Clock on *Thurſday*, and about 12 or near one, we began to diſpute the Paſſe with them; the Enemy had a Hill, and the Winde, we another Hill, they had the Paſſe and the Hedges lined before we came; we drew up our Canon, which did us very good ſervice, and made the other ſide of the Hill ſo hot, that they could not come down to relieve their men; preſently, the For-

lorn Hope were commanded down to cleer the Hedges, which they did, seconded with *Weldens* Regiment, which was next them.

I need not say any thing of the General and Lieutenant-General, who carried themselves according to their wonted diligence and gallantry.

The enemy had but two Pieces of Ordnance, small ones, having sent the rest, with most of their Carriages, to *Bridgewater*. The Passe being gained, the Horse went on. Major *Bethel* had the honour of the first Charge of Horse, who did it very gallantly, charging a Body of the enemy with a Troop, disordered them; and being over-born with a fresh Body, retreated slowly a little way, to Major *Disbrough*, who commands the Generals Regiment of Horse, where he rallyed, and charged again, and they with him, and put the enemy to a foul Retreat, which they never recovered. Part of their Foot, with some Horse, and their two Pieces of Ordnance, retreated into *Langport*, of which you shall have a further Account presently. The rest Horse and Foot, as fast as they could, ran toward *Bridgewater*, except some who scattered themselves into Corn and Woods for their shelter. Those that went toward *Bridgewater*, were earnestly pursued by our Horse, so that none of their Foot recovered *Bridgewater*, and very many of their Horse, and divers Colours. The General and Lieutenant General staying with the Foot neer *Langport*, perceived the enemy drawing over at *Langport*, and going toward *Bridgewater* on the other side of the River. Whereupon, we found the enemy had quitted it, because, as they say, the Governour refused to hold it without 800 men, which they could not spare: and for a farewell, they fired the Town, to run away by the light. Hereupon, we marched into the Town with Horse, and

some

some Foot, who thorow fire and water, pursued on that side the River. With those Horse went Lieutenant-General *Cromwell* and Colonel *Greaves*, who overtook their Foot-Colours, and Ordnance, and three loads of Ammunition, which they brought back to *Langport*. The Horse, some of them, got to *Bridgewater*, some to a little Garison call'ed *Burrow-Church*, in the way betwixt *Langport* and *Bridgewater*. The General in the mean time marched on with the rest of the Foot toward *Bridgewater*, for the advantage of Quarters, not being willing to stay in that wasted place, and came that night to *Middlesey*, four miles from *Bridgewater*.

In this Fight, the whole Foot of the enemy were dispersed, killed, and taken; but few killed, thanks to hedges and heels. What Ordnance they had, were lost, and many of their Colours taken. I cannot give a more perfect account of Prisoners: Two Colonels of Horse, *Slingsby* and *Heveningham*, are taken, with *Bertridge* Lieutenant-General of their Ordnance, besides some Lieutenant-colonels and Majors; and, as I hear, about 1200 Prisoners: and this a very cheap Victory, we having lost no Officer, and not 20 common Souldiers, for ought I can learn: Some of Major *Bethel's* Troop are sore hurt, himself shot in the right hand.

Thus hath the God of our Salvation protected and prospered us, besotting the enemies old Souldiers, that they should suffer themselves to be engaged contrary to their intentions, and in the midst of their expectation of Supplies to make up a formidable Army, directing us by his good providence, in the midst of our irresolutions: His Wisedom was our counsel, his Strength was our Victory; let the praise be his. Our Word was, *God with us*; and he made it good: Theirs was *Bristoll*, which they will make good, its like, and run from *Bridgewater* thither.

ther. Many of their men came running over to us, being such as *Gerard* had taken prisoners in *Wales*, and entertained; which should make us more carefull in taking in the enemies prisoners: and if it be not carefully heeded, it may be justly believed, that, notwithstanding the Covenant (the frequency of oaths having brought them to a formality, and Perjury being now grown familiar; which it were to be wisht were better thought on) Many of the prisoners taken at *Naseby* we shall be constrained to fight with once again.

A little before this Engagement, Master *Hollis*, the Ambassadour ordinary of the Clubs, came to us with a second Petition in the behalf of those whom Colonel *Cecy* had taken prisoners at *Lyme*; That reparation might be given for the lives of some who were killed, and the liberties of others who were taken; otherwise very fairly they must betake themselves to the adverse party for justice. The General being going to the Field, ordered him to stay at the Quarter, and he should have answer at his return; which, God be thanked, we can give him, with Honour and Justice. The enemies remainders are at and about *Bridgewater*; our Head-Quarter at *Middlesey*, where our Officers are consulting what is next to be done; for that is all the Question with us. *I pray God resolve it, and direct us.*

FINIS.

Numb. 3.

A CONTINVATION OF THE Proceedings of the ARMY under the Command of SIR Thomas Fairfax:

From the eleventh of this inſtant JULY, to the nineteenth of the ſame.

Whereunto is added a *Petition* preſented at a Rendevouz of *Club-men*, with their *Queries*. As alſo certain *Obſervations* upon their *Petition*, with a few *Croſſe-Queries*.

Dated at Sir *Thomas Fairfax* his Quarters at *Chedſey* neer *Bridgwater*, July 19.

Publiſhed according to Order.

LONDON,
Printed for *Samuel Gellibrand*, July 26. 1645.

A
CONTINUATION
OF THE
Proceedings of the Army under the Command of SIR
Thomas Fairfax:
From the eleventh of this instant June to the nineteenth of the same.

JULY 11.

TO the account which was given of the Fight and Rout on the tenth, all I can adde is, that *Goring* passed through *Bridgwater* on *Friday* morning towards *Barstaple* without Ordnance, with three Carriages, about 3000 Horse, most of them unserviceable; 400 Foot, whereof 300 never came in the Fight, 3 remaining Colours, in a most perplexed condition, in regard of the discontent of his shattered Forces, & the cariage of the Country, who made bold to bring up his Rear for him, which made him put 500 of his best Horse there to secure his march: as I am informed by one who marched with them; they have sent 500 Horse into *Cornwall* to bring up more sheep to the slaughter, and Sir *John Berkley* is as busy as he may in pressing men in *Devonshire*, where the Country much opposes his proceedings.

On *Friday*, *July* 11. The Generall marched to a Rendevouz of Horſe and Foot from *Midleſey* to *Weſton-Common*, two miles from *Bridgewater*, from whence we diſcovered, upon a hill on the right-hand a company of Country-men gathered together with White-flying Colours, *viz.* Sheets and apporns, to whom it pleaſed the Generall, accompanied with many of his Officers to go: The Countrymen referred themſelves to *Willys* to ſpeak for them, and to give account of their meeting, which he ſaid was for ſafeguard of their goods, and for peace, to which purpoſe he produced a Petition for a Treaty. At the ſame time appeared another Gentleman with a Petition drawen by ſome part of the Country about *Wells* and *Shepton-Mallet*, which this company diſclaimed, as alſo the carriage of the Club-men of *Dorſetſhire*, ſo that there is ſome danger that theſe reconcilers will fall out among themſelves. The Generall told them he came to protect them from the inſolencies of war, and to further peace, by ſcattering the enemies of it, deſired them to ſend in Proviſions, & they ſhould be paid for them, and ſo we parted fairely, and the good people were ſo well ſatisfied, that they gave us a moſt dangerous volley of ſhot of a quarter of an houre long, of which many of

us were more afraid then of the ſhot in the battell the day before; ſo they returned to their houſes, we to our quarters, which were that night at *Weſton* and *Chedſey*: And Colonel *Maſſey* was quartered on the other ſide the water, two miles from *Bridgewater*.

On *Saterday*, *Iuly* 12. We continued in our quarters refreſhing our men as well as we could without money, the want of which for three weeks laſt paſt hath occaſioned many ſtraights, and ſome diſorders, which we hope will be remedied by the ſupply which is now comming from *Lyme*, but let there be no expectation of any juſtice or order in an Army, if the Common Souldier, at leaſt eſpecially of Foot be not payed, whoſe 8*d*. will but let him live, and that thoſe men who chearfully and couragiouſly upon any occaſion adventure their lives for the preſervation of other mens liberties & eſtates, ſhould want that poor pittance is very hard, which they will do, unleſſe a ſetled courſe for convoyes be taken, and the Treaſurer reſiding in the Army have ſome money always ready for extremities, but this is an unpleaſant ſubject. This day the Cornet of the Generalls Troop was ſlaine by a ſhot from the Town, as he was riding between the Guard and the Workes.

The Generall, and Lieutenant-Generall, and ſome other Officers went after noon to view the Works, from whence they were ſaluted by a Canon-ſhot made by the famous Lady *Windham*, who bid the Trumpeter tell the General ſhe could do no leſſe, and if he were a Courtier he would do the like.

On *Sunday* the 13. We likewiſe reſted at *Chedſey*, the head-quarter; glad that our buſineſſe gave us liberty for a Religious reſt, which we have of late been very happy in obſerving. In the afternoon came to us Col. *Okey*, who with his Dragoons, and the aſſiſtance of ſome Foot took in *Burrow-Church*, and with it 150 priſoners, who rendred themſelves with their arms, and what they had; Their Governours name was *Greenham*. The Generall cauſed it to be poſſeſſed by a Commanded party of Foot, till further order be taken.

On *Munday* the 14. We began to think of the neceſsity of our moving, and alſo the great importance of taking the town of *Bridgwater*, if poſsible; which we find ſtrongly fortified in regard of the advantage of the water drawn about it, and many Ordnance in it, *Goring* having left with them al his but the two we took from him. A Storme was thought on, and proviſion made accordingly. Col. *Floyds*,

Floyds, and *Forteſcues* Regiments ſent over the water to joyn with Col. *Maſſey*, to whom Col. *Birch* was alſo come with his Regiment, and three other Regiments appointed for this ſide, with their reſerves. But the thing being of ſo great importance to our Army, our Officers being very tender of the honour of the Army, and lives of their men, thought fit at leaſt to defer it till more certain information might be had of the Works and Trenches, and more full preparation made: And therefore when they were almoſt ready to fall on, they were drawn off Munday night late, and returned to their quarters. This evening, through the great goodneſſe of God, the Generall, and Lieutenant-Generall eſcaped a very great danger by water, paſſing the River in a Boat, which was within two minutes of being overturned by the violence of the Tide call'd the *Eager*, comming in upon them.

On *Tueſday* morning Col. *Maſſey* came over to our quarters at *Chedſey*, where a Councel of War was called concerning the Town of *Bridgwater*, and reſolved that we ſhould go on in making all preparations, which if they proved ſo good, and our Intelligence croſs'd not the hopes of prevailing by Storm, it was ſuddenly to be attempted, otherwiſe to be blocked up. We have theſe two dayes

taken

taken some Vessels in the River, comming to, and going from *Bridgewater*, laden with Mault and Oats, and such provisions: Six Vessels have been taken by us (in all) since our comming hither.

Wednesday and *Thursday*, Preparations were diligently made for an attempt upon the Town: but finding it to be a thing of so great difficulty, the Ditch encompassing the Works, fil'd with water, being about six yards wide, and the Town well furnished with men, and having the example of so much warinesse given us by other Armies; It's thought it will not be expedient to put it to such a hazard: but rather, since there is some probability of starving it in a little time, to spend some patience upon it, considering it is a Town of so great importance to the welfare of the West, and withall considering that the blocking up this Town shall not be a totall impediment to other kind of action, as we hope the next Week will demonstrate.

As for the Intelligence we receive, it tels us that the *Prince*, and his Governour *Hopton*, are gone toward *Cornwall* to try their old refuge; which begins to be exhausted: and *Grenville*, *Berkley*, and *Goering* are busie, though to little purpose, in *Devonshire*. And lest this Intelligence should not be true, we shall very shortly send to know either how or what they do.

This day, being *Saturday* the 19. A party of Horse is sent toward *London* to meet and bring up Recruits: and the Generall, and the rest of the Officers are in the Field neer the Town, setling quarters, to block up the Town to the very Works, or taking some quicker resolution, that the Army may be at liberty to be disposed of as may be most for the service of the Kingdoms.

From *Chedsey* neer *Bridgwater*, July 19.

TO

To the Kings moſt Excellent MAJESTIE,

And to the Right Honourable Lords and Commons of Parliament, Aſſembled at WESTMINSTER.

WEE the Gentlemen, Free-holders, and others, all Proteſtants, and peaceable Subjects of the Countie of *Somerſet*, Beholding with unexpreſſible affliction of our ſoules the manie and terrible ſhakings of that well-built ſtate of *England*, which our wiſe and careſull Fathers left unto us, that their Generations after them, under the bleſſing of God, might keepe it up for ever; Are moſt humble ſuitors to your ſacred Majeſtie, and to the ſaid Honourable Lords and Commons, that our ſo long and much tottering Kingdome may ſpeedily be repoſed upon her firme foundation, which we conceive to be the full and free convening in Parliament, of your Majeſties Royall Perſon, and of all the Lords, together with the Commons, as well all them which have beene heretofore duly elected to this Parliament, and doe yet ſurvive, as others who ought to be ſo elected thither, to fill all places in it made voyd by death: Your Majeſties Royall and famous Progenitors and Predeceſſors, the Kings and Queenes of this

Land,

Land, invironed with this their full and free multitude of Councellors from all patts thereof, having ever been that Rock of ſafetie, whereon the good providence of God, for ſo manie hundred yeares paſt, hath eſtabliſhed this Realme, in deſpight of all former tempeſts that have beaten againſt it. Therefore in this, the greateſt of all that ever roſe upon us, or our Anceſtors, we cannot but with our inflamed devotions to God, deprecate out of all mens hearts all thoughts of ſaving us, rather upon ſome new made grounds then that old one, which God yet never ſuffered to faile us, or of limiting our refuge but to part of our Rock, when our advantage and hope muſt be the more, if we have the whole to helpe us: As the moſt glorious Bodie that is viſible in *England*, is the Parliament of *England*; ſo who can thinke it ſo perfect, who can hope to find it ſo ſtrong, to worke for the honour, peace, and happineſſe of *England*, as when it conſiſts in full of its Royall Head, and all the other good Members thereof?

Now therefore, with the utmoſt intention of our ſoules, and with all ardencie of our affections, we kneele unto your Majeſties Kingly wiſedome, and to the wiſedome of the ſaid Honourable Lords and Commons, that for the ſpeedie integration, both in Head and Members of this Bodie, which is the ſoule of *Englands* welfare, your Parliament, it may graciouſly pleaſe your Majeſtie and the ſaid Honourable Lords and Commons to ſend, they unto your Majeſtie, and your Majeſtie to them, to appoynt your ſeverall, that is to ſay, your Majeſtie, your Majeſties, and they their Commiſſioners, and to haſten them to meet, treat, and agree of Time and place, when and where your Majeſtie ſhall be, with your Houſes of Lords and Commons, both of them in their beautifull fulneſſe of all their Members; we moſt humbly beſeeching, that no place may

be

be thought for this purpoſe to be like *Gideons* Fleece, either the onely ſpot of *England*, that ſhall be capable of the dew of heavenly bleſſing, and that all the Land beſides will be dry; or to be the onely place which ſhall be dry, when upon any other Townes or Citie God will give down his dew; and for the ſecuritie, both of your Majeſtie, and the Honourable Houſes in any place, we ſhall lay downe our lives, and that which is left of our eſtates, to your Majeſty, for the Houſes, and to the Houſes, for your Majeſtie.

And that we and the whole Realme may no longer want the benefit of thoſe Lawes, which are well knowne to us by the undoubted Seales, of King, Lords and Commons, upon them, and may not ſtill ſtarve and bleed our ſelves to death, for ſuch as could not yet paſſe this three-fold Teſt; We humbly pray, that the comfortable ſtreames of Juſtice, which have beene ſo long bayed up, may be opened to all the Land, to refreſh it, now everie where weary and weake, by the long impunitie of all ſorts of ſin and injurie, and that Judges and Officers may be authorized to, and ſecured, in their adminiſtrations of Law and right to all people; And that all Field-Armies may be diſſolved, all controverſies for which they have beene rayſed being layd downe, to be awakened and determined, or to ſleepe and dye undecided in the full and free Parliament; And that all unneceſſarie Garriſons be ſlighted, and ſuch as ſhall be thought neceſſarie, either by your Majeſtie, or the ſaid Honourable Lords and Commons to be continued, to be truſted in ſome hands of thoſe Counties wherein they are ſited, the Truſtees to be equally named by your Majeſtie, and the ſaid Honourable Lords and Commons, and no Truſtee to deliver up his Charge, but by the joynt Warrant of King, Lords and Commons in Parliament; and everie ſuch Garriſon to be maintained at the charge of

the Countie where it is, untill we may ſee that happy day when the King, Lords and Commons ſhall declare, that there is no more uſe of any ſuch warineſſe betweene the King and his people.

And we beſeech your Majeſties Princely Clemencie, and the fatherly and fraternall love of the ſaid Honourable Lords and Commons, to all their equall and inferiour Countrymen, for this ſweet and neceſſarie condiſcention to all that have beene in armes, or otherwiſe aſſiſtant on either partie to this deſtructive Warre, and to all that are impriſoned by any occaſion of it, and to all that abſent themſelves from their dwellings upon feare thereof, that they may be permitted to returne home, and all men to enjoy their liberties and properties, and their wonted freedome of Commerce throughout the whole Realme.

Laſtly, we moſt humbly beſeech your Majeſties moſt tender heart, and the feeling affections of the ſaid Honourable Lords and Commons, to their poore and bleeding Countrymen, to take notice of the manie importunate Agitants, which have beaten us together into theſe our unuſuall meetings, not onely the worſhip of God, the honour of your Majeſtie, the native libertie and right of the Subject, the wealth and ſtrength of the whole Land, and whatſoever is vertuous or laudable in it ſtill ſuffering diminution, but alſo our intolerable ſlaverie, under a moſt inſolent Souldierie, our univerſall povertie, by endleſſe Contributions, and Plunders: the curſed Sacriledges done upon holy places, devoted to Gods ſervice; the grievous perſecutions of Reverend Miniſters, the manie tragicall Murthers and rapes that have beene acted, and more that are threatned upon peaceable Subjects, all ſorts of wickednеſſe become everie where impudent and ſhameleſſe, and in a word, whatſoever is dreadfull or miſerable

to

to us, is ſtill growing upon us, under the Reigne of this Civill Warre: By all theſe ſo many and ſo powerfull conſiderations, we having beene drawne together, as we conteſt the Searcher of all hearts, not for Sedition, but for the publique Peace, and in order thereunto, to meet together in this our humble Petition unto your Excellent Majeſtie, and the ſaid Honourable Lords and Commons, and to put our ſelves into a generall readineſſe, at the Crie of the Countrey, to purſue and arreſt all Robbers and Murtherers, and all other Felons, under whoſe continuall Oppreſſions we could no longer endure.

Wee therefore humbly beſeech your Majeſtie, and the ſaid Honourable Lords and Commons, and all our ſuperiour and fellow ſubjects of this Realme, that we may be mercifully and favourably judged in theſe our innocent intentions; and thereunto, according to our capacitie, and our wiſeſt endeavours, wee dayly pray to the God of Peace and Love, that we may be revived, and the whole Realme, by a ſpeedy and indiſſoluble Union of the ſtrength and ſaving health of *England*, (next under his Heavenly Majeſtie) your ſacred Majeſtie, the Right Honourable Lords, and the Honourable Houſe of Commons, in a full and free, which cannot be but, a happie Parliament.

Some *Quæres* preſented by M. *Willis* at the Club-mens *Rendez-vous* at *Weſton Common*, in the Countie of *Somerſet*, the laſt day of *June*, 1645.

1. TO make choiſe of ten or twe've ſufficient men, ſuch as are well knowne in their Countrey to be diſcreet and honeſt in the buſineſſe we now meet about; that may endeavour with as much ſpeed as may be, to preſent the Counties Petitions to the King and Parliament.

2. Whether it be not neceſſarie for us, who take up Armes for the peace of the Kingdome, to make choiſe of ſuch men as we perceive and know to be of the ableſt ſort amongſt us, for Judgement and Valour, to be Officers and Commanders, as Captaines, Colonels, &c?

3. If it be agreed on to chuſe Officers, whether ſuch of the Pariſh as have Liſted themſelves, muſt not be tyed on paine of ſome penaltie, upon ſummons of their Commanders, with as much ſpeed as may be to repaire to their Colours?

4. That ſuch poore men as live by their dayly labour, courſe may be taken, by a generall Rate made once a Weeke by the chiefe of the Pariſh, to pay them for ſo many dayes as they have beene upon the generall imployment; which is agreed on by *Dorſetſhire* Rate, 8 pence a Day.

5. Whether ſuch as are able and knowne to be rich in the places where they live, and doe not yet, nor will not upon the next Summons profeſſe themſelves for us, and joyne with us in this good Worke, which is queſtionleſſe acceptable both to God and all good men; whether they be

be not onely worthie to be accounted ill-affected to their Countrey, but alſo lyable to pay all ſuch poore men as neglect their labour to doe their Countrey ſervice?

6. Whether it be not convenient for all ſuch men as be of abilitie, to provide themſelves with as much ſpeed as may be with Horſe and Armes for the Service, to preſerve themſelves and the Countrey from violence, if any be offered?

7. What courſe to be taken for the furniſhing of each part of the Countie with Ammunition.

8. Whether all ſuch as prove themſelves to be impreſt men, and ſo forced on this unnaturall uncivill Warre, and they forſaking the Armies or Garriſons, and repaire to their homes, whether they may not, if they deſire to ſtand for what we doe, be accepted?

9. If any heneeforward be taken breaking an Houſe, robbing in the High-way, ſtealing of Cattell or Horſes out of our Grounds or Commons; whether that we, who ſtand to maintaine the Lawes of this Land, ſhall not give ſuch the Law as they doe deſerve, if the Governour next adjoyning the place, where the offence was committed, refuſe to doe it?

10. Whether it be not neceſſarie, that the Countie adjoyning repaire to the Governour of *Bridgewater*, to demand the Paſſage-Boat of Commage, that the Weſterne and Eaſterne parts may have Commerce and Trading together, and to paſſe either to other, as the Occaſions of the Countrey ſhall require; and the like for *Burrow* Bridge?

11. That if any man that is active in our Affaires, and takes more paines then ordinarie to bring our purpoſes to paſſe, be violently ſurprized by Souldiers on either ſide, to the loſſe of life or libertie; whether it be not neceſſarie for the whole Counties, to bind themſelves by Oath either

to

to other, to joyne altogether as one Man, to avenge the abuſe? For if this ſhould not be, what man of eſtate or qualitie dares ſhew himſelfe for us?

12. Whether any Gentleman of our Countrey, that hath beene or is knowne at this time to be active on either ſide, ſhall be, if they offer, accepted or no? conſidering, that if we admit them of one ſide, and not of the other, we ſhall prove partiall; and ſo, friends to the one ſide, and enemies to the other: and againe, if we accept of both, there muſt needs ſhortly thereupon grow a diviſion among our ſelves; for that they which leave or come from the Kings ſide, will be drawing people their way; and they which come from the Parliament, will endeavour the like for the Parliament: and ſo the Wound of the Kingdome may prove more deadly then ever, and our laſt Riſing be made the more incurable.

13. That if ſufficient proofe ſhall be made, that any Officer, or other perſon that joynes with us, or ſeemes of us, doe by any Plot, Stratagem, or Intelligence, endeavour to betray their Countries deſigne, or any particular perſon in our Aſſociation, that he ſuffer death.

14. Whether it be not neceſſarie, that ſuch Articles as ſhall be agreed on by this Countie for the good and peace of the Kingdome, be publiſhed in every Pariſh Church within this Countie; by the Parſon or Miniſter of the Place, together with the foure Articles which *Dorſetſhire* and *Wiltſhire* have ſubſcribed to? And in caſe any Miniſter refuſe to doe it, that he be held as an enemie to us and the Peace, and ſo be proceeded againſt, as his offence ſhall deſerve.

Briefe Obſervations upon the Petition.

ALthough all honeſt and wiſe men may be ſuppoſed to be ſufficiently ſatisfied at the firſt ſight of this Petition, yet that knaves may be unmaſked, and fools unblinded, it may not be amiſſe to take a little notice of it. Firſt, the place of its conception was at *Wels*, a place of Epiſcopall affection to the Parliament and Reformation, where it ſeems to have beene engendred by the malignant conjunction of the Lawyer and the Clergyman, which I am induced to beleeve, becauſe there is ſo little of Religion or Juſtice in it: But howſoever it was begotten, the honeſter ſort of Clubmen refuſed to owne it as legitimate.

But we need not take advantage of circumſtances, the Petition bewrayes it ſelfe; firſt, in the Title, *To the Lords and Commons of Parliament aſſembled at Weſtminſter.* And why not, *To the Lords and Commons aſſembled in Parliament at Weſtminſter?* Can it be thought that the Parliament are brought ſo farre below themſelves as to accept of that appellation from an heap of people, which they refuſed to doe from that ſacred Majeſty ſo much extolled in the Petition.

The firſt deſire is, *That there may be a full and free convention of the King and all the Lords and Commons in Parliament.* The King ſince his departure hath beene often deſired both by the Parliament and people to return, and hath as often refuſed. As for the Lords and Commons, as many as love Parliaments are there; for the reſt, as they are wilfully, ſo they are juſtly abſent: they were once rightfully called, they are now rightfully caſt out for deſerting or betraying their truſt; and to require their promiſcuous re-admiſſion, were to rob the Parliament of that power and priviledge concerning its owne Members, which moſt of the Subjects of *England* have proteſted to maintaine. As for the deprecations, they are confeſt to come from an infla-

med Devotion, it may be of some Priest in a Taverne; but such inflamations are dangerous. But in earnest, you deprecate high thoughts of saying us upon any new made grounds. Me thinks you should rather have wisely avoyded putting men in minde of new grounds, which it may be they never thought of, especially when your affection is so weake concerning the old one, which (you say) God never suffered to faile us. Alas, if it hath not failed us, why or how are all these things come upon us? You would not be saved by part of your Rock, as you call it. Wise and good men will not only be content, but glad to be saved by any means which God the only Rock thinks fit to use. I have of deprecating, it is but saying your prayers backwards.

The second, *That Commissioners may be respectively appointed by the King and Parliament to agree of the time and place of this full Convention.* This seems but an unequall motion, that we should acquit a Parliament lawfully called, and by a further speciall Law concluded, for a meeting to be appointed we know not how, why, when, nor where by this irregular and uncertain Treaty. Now comes another Deprecation, *Humbly beseeching, That no place may be thought to be for this purpose like Gideons fleece, the only spot.* Must no place be fixt upon? what can that meane, unlesse this, That to meet to no purpose, the fittest place is no better? Yes Gentlemen (for I suppose you pretend to be so that drew the Petition) we know your meaning by your stumblings, you would have a Parliament farther from *London*, and nearer confusion; but Gods providence and their predonce have by particular Act fetled them at *Westminster*, whence they are not to be removed but by their own consent, which when you have obtained, that part of the Petition is answered. But the Parson might have made better use of his Bible then to produce *Gideons* Fleece to this purpose, though it appeareth that his wits were in

woll-

wooll-gathering, yet he might have thought of some other Fleeces in his owne flock fitter for this Parable.

Thirdly, tis desired, *That the benefit of known Laws may still be reaped.* So it is where it may, and most plentifully in *Westminster-Hall*, where those Judges who love Lawes better then Lusts still continue to dispence Justice under the countenance and protection of the Parliament. But it must be considered, that till the Sword is sheathed (which is earnestly prayed and endeavoured) a full and free execution of all Laws cannot be expected; as sometimes one mans house must be pulld downe that the whole towne be not fired; one mans ground must be broke to stop an inundation that might spoile a Countrey; so some Lawes must be broken that in Gods good time all may be kept; some mens Liberties and Properties must be interrupted, that the publike Liberty of the Kingdome, and with that their owne may be preserved. Heer's a sad Deprecation follows, *That you may not starve and bleed to death for such as could not yet passe the threefold test of King, Lords and Commons.* As for you that framed this Petition, its beleeved you are farre from starving, and drinke more then you bleed; but those that suffer and bleed in opposition to that faction whereof the King is pleased to make himselfe the head, doe it not so much for the obtaining of new Laws not yet formerly established, as for the conservation of Religion, Law, Liberty, and a Parliament already setled, which have beene almost desperately invaded by Injustice, Tyranny, Superstition, Popery, and violent Attempts against the Parliament. Of which the endeavours to engage first the Scotch Army, then the English Army in the North against the Parliament in 1641. The Kings comming to the House of Commons, His leaving the Parliament, Raising an Army, Making a Cessation and Peace with the bloody Irish, and then bringing them into *England*, His resignation of himselfe

himſelfe to the Queens Councels, His Contracts for French Forces, which latter moſt evidently appeare by his owne Letters; are too true and and ſad teſtimonies.

The next requeſt is, *That Judges and Officers may be authorized and ſecured in the adminiſtration of Juſtice*; which is already anſwered; *and that all Field-Armies be diſſolved*. That is ſomething unreaſonable, to have neither Warre nor Peace: there is ſome diſorder in an Army, but there is more in confuſion, which muſt neceſſarily accompany the diſſolving of Armies before Peace be ſetled. It is further deſired, *That all unneceſſary Garriſons be ſleighted*, and good reaſon; *and thoſe that remaine ſhould be committed to men of the ſame Counties*. I know not what the fruit of that would be, unleſſe to make men odious among their neighbours, who hate Garriſons and Governours. And laſtly, *That theſe Governours be jointly truſted by King and Parliament*. When the King and Parliament agree about the government of the Garriſons, it is hoped they may agree about the government of the Kingdome; and till then things muſt reſt as they are, or mend as they may.

In the next, His Majeſties Princely clemency (graciouſly expreſt to the Rebels of *Ireland*, though conſtantly denied to Engliſh Subjects) and the Love of the Houſes is beſought, *That all that have beene engaged in this deſtructive warre, or abſented themſelves for feare of it, may be permitted to returne to their wonted enjoyments*. To give liberty to all Souldiers to returne to their dwellings were to ruine the Armies, and ſo to deprive the Parliament of power to doe that which they have ſo much right to doe, that is, to preſerve the Kingdome; which is not to be done in this unhappy conjuncture but by force, when it is ſo dangerouſly infeſted by inteſtine enemies, and ſo dangerouſly attempted by forraigne preparations. And to proclaime promiſcuous liberty to all perſons, though never ſo highly

guilty,

guilty, to enjoy their freedoms, were in effect to ſay, That this Cauſe in quarrell, which hath coſt ſo much blood, was certainly very ſleight and unneceſſary, it is ſo eaſily ended. It would be no wayes for the advantage of the Kingdome to have theſe wounds ſo ſkind over as to feſter againe, but rather to be ſearcht and cleanſed. The ſoundneſſe and happines of every Common-wealth depends upon that which this Kingdome had more need be beſought to, then perſwaded from, *viz.* The equall and proportionable diſtribution of Rewards and Puniſhments; not that rigour ſhould be uſed towards the multitude miſled by ignorance and paſſion, but that the ſafety of the Nation ſhould be built upon the ruines of the malicious contrivers and active abettors of thoſe deſignes that have brought this miſery upon it.

Laſtly, As for thoſe importunate *Agitators*, as they are called, which have beaten you together into theſe unuſuall meetings; I believe a ſtander by may ſee as much as a Gameſter, and a ſtranger give as good an account as your ſelves, which may be to this purpoſe: Firſt, It is acknowledged, that the inſolencies of Souldiers on each part, and the many unavoidable burdens, could do no leſſe, then produce in the people a grievous wearineſſe of their preſent condition, and a great readineſſe to take any courſe that might help them, either in deed or in pretence: This advantage being eſpyed by the ſubtle craftineſſe of ſome, who lye in waite to deceive; they diligently applyed themſelves to draw people together, that ſo they might make thoſe impreſſions upon them which were moſt ſuitable to their owne ends and intereſts, or elſe that the Country might refer themſelves to them who would expreſſe their owne Malignancy inſteed of the peoples meaning; which evidently appeares, in that many of the honeſt Countrymen refuſed to owne that which theſe contrivers would make them

them speake. And as Malignancy and ignorance hath made up these meetings, so Justice and Truth must dissolve them, if this labour be not saved by that confusion and weakness which are incident to such disorderly and groundlesse undertakings. As for the offence taken at the cursed sacriledges done upon holy places, it is acknowledged unfit that any incivility should be used toward places by Law appointed to publike Worship, (which Civill appointment is all the consecration that we can acknowledge) but it were to be wished, that well meaning people would begin to understand, that ignorant, idle, and unholy Ministers were the greatest prophaners of their holy places, and that to take away the remnants of Idolatry and Superstition, as Crucifixes, Altars, and such like scandals, were not sacriledge, but Reformation. To conclude; the Petitioners may be assured, that the two great ends of these tumultuous assemblings, which are said to be the publike peace, and martiall protection, may be more effectually advanced by sober and orderly proceedings, without attempting that which is both unwarrantable and impossible, the reduction of all Civill and Military Power to their Propositions and Demands. If the Author may be thought to have discovered too much partiality to the Parliament in this Answer, it is replyed, that he was driven to it by the inequality of the Petition, inclining as much on the other hand. For a conclusion, two things may be observed and amended in the affections and expressions of these Petitioners, viz. The little sense of Religion, which would almost induce a man to say, that God was not in all their thoughts when they went about it, as if they did not understand the necessary conjunction of Truth and Peace, and the purity and Reformation of Religion, were the best foundations of outward happinesse. Secondly, The over deep sense of the calamities of war, without any reflections upon sinne,

the

the cause of them; they speake as men resolved to have peace and plenty, without the taking notice of the God of peace: whereas we must know, that an humble submission, is more availeable to the removing of evils, then an impatient strugling. Let me not be so far mistaken, as to be thought to perswade a stupid couching under the burden: No, let all lawfull meanes be used; but let us take heed of promoting our ends, though never so desirable, either by unlawfull actions, as by stretching out our hands to a strange God, or with inordinate affections, when our actions are warrantable. How much is it to be wished, that our uncircumcised hearts were humbled, and that we did accept the punishment of our iniquity; Then would the Lord remember his Covenant, and remember the Land; That we could beare the indignation of the Lord, because we have sinned against him; then would he arise and plead our Cause, and execute Judgement for us: Till then, we shall but disquiet our selves in vaine, and by all our striving make our burthen more uneasie, and never a whit lesse unnecessary.

Croße Queres to those of Master Willis.

To the Title. Quere. WHether the Clubmen ought not to bring Master *Willis* to condigne punishment, for procuring and commanding these illegall and unwarrantable meetings, seeing in the ninth *Quere* they professe to maintaine the Lawes of the Land.

To the first. Quere. Whether discreet and honest men will undertake such a business as you meet about?

To the second. Quere. Whether, since Armes may be taken up for peace sake, why the Armes of the Parliament may not conduce as much to peace, as the Armes of the Clubmen? And further *Quere.* Whether any who are fit to be Commanders, will take charge over them who are not fit to be commanded.

To

To the third. *Quere.* Whether the Clubmen will not quickly be as weary of their Commanders penalties, as of the Parliaments?

To the fourth. *Quere.* Whether the rates for the maintenance of poor Clubmen, are not like to prove almost as troublesome and burthensome as other Contributions.

To the fifth. *Quere.* Whether this be not Club-tyranny? which if it must be endured, is more tollerable from a Prince then a Peasant. And further, *Quere*, Whether the worke be acceptable to God and good men, for it is not so questionlesse as is presumed.

To the sixth and seventh. *Quere.* How they shall be able to keep themselves from being disarmed and disfurnished, when they have provided Arms and Ammunition, seeing a Clubman and his powder are soon parted.

To the eighth. *Quere.* Whether such impreſt men, running from their Colours to their homes, may not be hanged, notwithstanding the protection of this Association, especially if they be found out of their owne Country?

To the ninth. *Quere.* Whether it be not as unlawfull for the Clubmen to execute the Laws, being not by Law allowed, as for the Souldiers to breake it?

To the tenth. *Quere.* Whether you can come at the Governour of *Bridgewater*, and whether he can come at the boate, being beseiged? If the siege be removed it is no question but you should.

To the eleventh. *Quere.* What power you have to impose an Oath, especially binding to vengeance, which belongs not to you?

To the twelfth. *Quere.* Whether any man engaged on the Parliaments side will offer himselfe to your acceptance.

To the thirteenth. *Quere.* Whether the putting any man to death by Club-law, be agreeable to the lawes of the Land, professed to be maintained in the ninth?

To the fourteenth. *Quere.* Whether the Minister can read your Articles, or whether he ought to publish these Articles, being beyond the number of his Creed; or how you can punish a Minister without a Club-Bishop?

The Quere of Queres. Whether the Knave of Clubs was not Trump in All this dealing.

FINIS.

Numb. 4.

A CONTINUATION OF THE Proceedings of the ARMY under the Command of Sir Tho, Fairfax:

From the ninteenth of this inſtant July to the three and twentieth of the ſame.

Wherein is related the particulars of the ſtorming and taking the Towne of Bridgewater.

Dated at Sir *Thomas Fairfax* his Quarters 23. Iuly 1645.

Publiſhed according to Order.

LONDON,
Printed for *Samuel Gellibrand*. 29. Iuly 1645.

A CONTINUATION OF THE Proceedings of the ARMY under the Command of Sir Tho. Fairfax:

LONDON,

The Proceedings of the Army under the Command of Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, from the 19. of this inſtant *July*, to the 23. of the ſame.

July 19.

ON Saturday afternoone, the Generall, with the reſt of the Officers met in the Field before the Towne, to proſecute their intentions of blocking it up, but it fell out, that in the midſt of their diſcourſes, the motion of ſtorming was renewed, and in concluſion agreed on, to which purpoſe the preparations were diligently haſtened, and fitted for the time agreed on, which was Munday morning about two of the Clock, God graciouſly vouchſafing us the opportunity of a Sabbaths reſt before ſo hard a labour.

The Lords day was ſpent in religious exerciſes by all thoſe that could poſſibly be ſpared from the requiſites of ſo great a worke. This morning Sir *William Courtney*, a Colonell of Horſe, ſhot and ſhattered in the thigh at the late fight, obtained leave of the Generall (whoſe compoſition is courage and courteſie) to

paſſe toward *Winchester* to ſee his wife and ſettle his affaires, having little hopes of recovery; he told us of Sir *John Digbies* death, who dyed in *Bridgewater* the day before of a ſhot in the arme, received neer *Taunton*. Toward the evening we drew into the field, neere the Towne, where the manner of the aſſault was ordered, *viz.* 600. Foot were to be drawne out of ſixe Regiments, that lay in *Chedſey*, to aſſault the Towne in two places eſpecially, 300. under the Command of Lieut. Colonell *Hewſon*, and 300. led on by Major *Dane*, the ſixe Captains were *White*, *Price*, *Boys*, *Hill*, *Biſcoe*, *Edwards*, of each Regiment one. The Generals Regiment and the Major Generals were commanded by Colonell *Hammond*, who led them on as Reſerves to the two commanded Parties. The Bridges faſtened to Waynes, whereby they were to get over the ditch, was to be drawn in by the Officers of the Traine, with the help of the Firelocks and ſome other Souldiers that aſſiſted them. And lee me not omit, that Maſter *Peters* was appointed to preach to the Party that was to fall on; and did it *Tum Marte quam Mercurio*. The Souldiers would not be commanded out, but freely offered themſelves to the ſervice: And ſo on Munday morning early the Generall, Lieutenant Generall, and the other Officers being all in the Field, our men fell on, and preſently after the Bridges were laid, which was not done without ſome difficulty, they entred the Towne with little loſſe; the moſt conſiderable perſon hurt was Lieutenant *Martin* of the Firelocks, who loſt a leg by a great ſhot; we loſt not above ſixe or ſeven Souldiers, and had about forty wounded; wee tooke neare 500. Priſoners in the

towne,

towne, moſt of them Welchmen of *Pembrokeſhire*, who were well diſpoſed to the Parliament, and have taken up Armes for us 300. of them. Among the Priſoners are a Lieutenant Colonell, called *Pitman*, a Major, foure or five Captaines, nine or ten Lieutenants. The towne was ſtrongly allarmd on the Weſt ſide, but it ſeemes all things were not in readineſſe with them to fall on, which if they had, we have very good grounds to believe, that we had carryed the whole buſineſſe, but let us be thankfull for the mercy God hath vouchſafed us in this, which is a good way to gaine the reſt.

This day, the 21. we are ſtriving to make good this part of the towne againſt the other, and it is a hot diſpute, not ſo much in regard of the Cannon, with which the Enemy plaies hard from the Caſtle, but in that the towne is fired, and in part burnt by the Enemies Fire-workes or Granadoes ſince the taking of it.

The Generall hoping that the ſtorme might have wraught upon the Souldiers, and the fire upon the townesmen, ſo far, that they would have hearkened to a Treaty, renewed his Summons; which the Governour peremptorily refuſed, according to his Allegiance, whether to the King or his wife, its doubted? Hereupon the Generall tooke up a double reſolution of the higheſt Juſtice and mercy, and reſolved for a ſecond ſtorme, but ſent to the Governour an Anſwer to this purpoſe; That his denyall of faire termes had wrought in him no other thoughts then of compaſſion towards thoſe innocent people that were like to ſuffer by the Governors obſtinacy, which then that he might not be acceſſary to, he deſired the Governour in his name, to give liberty to all the women and children to paſſe out of the town, that the reſt who were more guilty, might

abide the danger; the Governour accordingly made knowne his pleaſure, which divers of the Ladies and other women gladly accepted, and the Lady Governeſſe, as ſhe loves to be called, among the reſt. Hereupon ſome hot Slugs were ſhot in by a Souldier, and ſome other Fire works, which burnt ſome houſes: We hoping the burning ſome might reduce them to a Parley to ſave the reſt; but as themſelves confeſſe, divers in the towne put fire to houſes, ſo that it was on fire in many places, and grew ſo hot in a little time, that it melted the Governour ſo far as to ſend *Tom. Eliot*, for ſo he is uſually called, to excuſe the holding out the town, to deſire to know the Generals terms; He told them, he expected they ſhould ſurrender to mercy: they returned theſe three Articles.

1. *That the Governour, and all the Officers and Gentlemen that were in the Towne, with their Servants, Horſes, Swords, Piſtols, and Cloak-bags, might march with a Safe-Convoy to* Exeter.

2. *That all the Souldiers might likewiſe march unto* Exeter, *leaving their Armes.*

3. *That all Clergie-men in the Towne, and Townesmen, may have libertie to march with us, or abide at their owne homes.*

Edmond Windham.

The Generall returnes theſe:

Granted. 1. *To all, their Lives.*

2. *To the inhabitants their Liberties, and freedome from Plunder.*

3. *Neither Officers nor Souldiers to be Plundered of their Clothes upon them.*

4. *The Gentlemen to be diſpoſed of as the Parliament ſhall appoint, and in the meane time to have civill uſage.*

Six Hoſtages to be ſent, and an anſwer in a quarter of an houre. Ll. Fairfax.

The

The Governour returned anſwer, that he found thoſe Propoſitions ſo ill reſented both by Gentlemen and Souldiers, that he could not accept of them: the Generall thereupon gave order to the Souldiers, to ſtand upon their guard, and goe to their duties; M. *Eliot* deſired nothing might be done till he returned, leaving Sir *John Heale* as Caution: Which was agreed to, and he preſently returned, with an Anſwer of Submiſſion to the Generals Articles; onely ſlipt in a Motion for himſelfe, that he might have libertie to carrie the Newes to the King, upon his Paroll: May hee have more ſuch imployment, till Peace be ſetled.

Thereupon the Hoſtages were ſent, Sir *John Heale*, Sir *Hugh Windham*, Maſter *Waldron*, Maſter *Warre*, Major *Sidenham*, Maſter *Speake*; and we ſent ſome into the Towne to them: The Towne was to be ſurrendred according to the Articles the next morning at eight of the clocke, which was accordingly done: the particulars of all are not yet perfected; in groſſe I may ſay, we tooke very many Gentlemen of the Countrey, Clergymen not a few, about 1000. Souldiers, 40. peeces of Ordnance, 1500. Armes, and Powder and Match conſiderable, and a Garriſon ſtrongly fortified: That which may ſeeme to allay the happineſſe of the ſucceſſe was, that the towne was fired, but truly, though the ſtrictneſſe of Souldiery might very well juſtifie the action, yet God in his providence concurred to the juſtice of it, and our acquittance. They refuſed treatie after part taken, they fired the part we had taken, and rang the Bells for joy, when they ſaw it blaze: and as we are credibly informed, they fired the towne themſelves in many places, where fire-workes could doe no good; the

ſouldiers, ſaying, the towne did it, to be rid of them; the towne, ſay the ſouldiers, did it, and the Lady commanded it, when they were in little hopes to hold it. But God be thanked, we found much more of it ſtanding then we expected. Some things there are which make the buſineſſe very conſiderable; as firſt, it hath drawne a Line from the South Sea to Severne ſea by *Bridgewater*, *Taunton*, and *Lyme*; it hath let looſe our Armie for further worke, which is a mercie at this time of the yeare. It was a great gaine, with little loſſe: and that which addes as much to our ſatisfaction, as much as any thing, we kept our Articles; which is not onely honourable in the eyes of men, but acceptable in the ſight of God, and that which this Warre hath ſcarce formerly attained. It was done with ſome difficultie, in regard our ſouldiers had ſuffered ſo much, and *Cornwall* was ſo neere. But give me leave, to adde to my Newes a motion, that is, that the ſouldier may have ſome encouragement beyond his Pay, for ſuch ſervices, that he may ſometimes more then live; that their ſpirits may be held up, and they encouraged to juſtice and honour. Thus doth the Lord follow us with mercie and loving kindneſſe; let all whom it concernes, be humble and thankfull, and walke in love.

We are this night, the 23. returned to our quarters, the head quarter at *Chedſey*, and are meditating a day of Thankſgiving, mingled with ſeeking God for further direction.

Chedſey, July 23.

FINIS.

Numb. 5.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARMY Under the COMMAND of Sir Tho. Fairfax:

From the foure and twentieth of *July* last to the one and thirtieth of the same.

Wherein is related the Surrender of *Bath*, and the state of our Army.

Dated at Sir *Thomas Fairfax* his Quarters 31. July 1645.

Published according to Order.

LONDON,
Printed for *Samuel Gellibrand.* 4. Aug. 1645.

Num. 5

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARMY

Under the COMMAND of

Sir Tho. Fairfax:

From the foure and twentieth of *July* last to the one and thirtieth of the same.

Wherein is related the Surrender of *Bath*, and the state of our Army.

Dated at Sir *Thomas Fairfax* his Quarters 31. July 1645.

Published according to Order.

LONDON,
Printed for *Samuel Gellibrand*. 4. Aug. 1645.

The Proceedings of the Army under the Command of Sir *THOMAS FAIRFAX*: From the 24. of July last to the 31. of the same.

July 24.

After the entring of *Bridgewater* on the 23. Colonell *Brick* was desired to take (at least) the present charge of the Town, and the Commissioners for the Army were likewise appointed to gather together all the goods of Souldiers and Gentlemen which were to be left by the Articles, and amounted to a considerable summe, as the owners say; and to make sale of them to raise Money for the Souldiers, which might be not onely a reward for daily

ſervice paſt, but an incouragement to ſervice and faithfull performance of Articles for the time to come: But we have reaſon to feare that we ſhall not raiſe a proportion in any reaſonable time. This day and the 25. likewiſe we reſted at *Chedſey*, diſpoſing Priſoners and ſetling the affaires of that Towne. On the 26. we marched from thoſe Quarters to *Martock*, where the head Quarter was, and ſome of the Regiments at *Long-ſutton*, At *Martock* we reſted the Lords day the 27. and made it a day of Thankſgiving, being willing to take that or any advantage to thankfulneſſe, other daies allowing ſo little leiſure. As ſoon as we returned from the afternoons meeting, we had new matter of praiſe offerd us from the Governour of *Lyme*, who ſent an account of the taking of *Chadiock* Houſe, a Garriſon that much annoyed *Lyme* and thoſe parts; But its like a full account of thoſe paſſages is given by others.

On Munday, it being found that the Army wanted many neceſſaries, and that upon a little ſtay the recruits might be come up, & the whole Army diſpoſed to the beſt advantage, till we were inabled to do the moſt conſiderable work,

which

which may be ſuppoſed to be the following the Enemy, & interrupting his endeavours of raiſing men, it was thought fit not to be wholly idle; whereupon the Army was divided, part ſent to *Sherborne*, to block it up at leaſt, and to take further advantages if ſuffered, whether went Colonell *Pickering* and the Controller of the Artillery: The other part marched with the Generall toward *Bath* good ground being given that that place might be eaſily reduced and made (if not a Garriſon) yet a ſtrong Quarter very advantagious to the taking *Briſtoll*, which is not yet capable of any deſigne to be neerer laid, it being ſo much infected, that it is more like to take an Army then be taken by it.

We came on Munday night to *Wells*, *Bona terra mala gens*, there we heard that *Bath* was quitted or very neare it; and it ſeems their condition was this, The Townſmen not willing to beare Armes, nor yet to receive Souldiers from infected *Briſtol*, the Souldiers were too few to hold it, ſo that the Governour Sir *Thomas Bridges* had quitted it, had not Prince *Rupert* ſent about 100. men to him with orders to ſtay.

Upon hearing the probability of quitting it,

the

the Generall thought fit to ſpare his Foot any unneceſſary labour, and ſent two Regiments of Horſe under the command of Colonell *Rich*, and two Troops of Dragoons with Colonell *Okey* to give account of the condition of the towne, that Orders might be given accordingly. They came neere the towne on tueſday the nine and twentieth, which was held againſt them, and ſummoned; afterward they applyed themſelves to ſee what might be done by force, the Dragoons ſoone beat them from the Bridge, which being gained they ſet fire to a ſtrong gate on the South-weſt, and when that was burnt the Governour and his Officers were willing to compound, and to obtaine their owne liberties of marching to *Briſtoll*, left the place, and in it 130. common Souldiers priſoners, the reſt running away in the time of the Treatie: ten, or, as ſome ſay, twenty barrels of Powder, three hundred Armes, a tunne of Match, ſixe iron peeces of Ordnance: Whereupon two Regiments were drawne from *Wells* to take poſſeſſion of the towne till it be further ſetled. The Generall in perſon riding thither on Wedneſday the thirtieth to ſee it done, where he received

Letters

Letters from Captaine *Swaniey*, that he had taken twenty Veſſels lying on the Welch Coaſt to receive ſouldiers to be conveyed over to *Vphill*, and deſiring ſome men to be ſent into Pembrokeſhire to ſtrengthen the Garriſons there againſt a deſtroying inſolent enemy, who hath ſcarce any place but that left to execute his cruelty upon. And the Generall hath granted to ſend five hundred men which we have taken of that Countrey, who are very well affected to the Parliament, and willing to doe ſervice.

The Generall is this laſt of *July* returning to *Wells*, he having left a Garriſon in *Bath*, and ſo intending to go on to unite the Army, and receive the recruits and other neceſſaries, and haſten to what action ſhall moſt conduce to the publike.

Let us all be watchfull to give glory to God, who loads us daily with his benefits.

From Bath, *July ult.*

FINIS.

Numb. 6.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARMY

Under the COMMAND of

Sir Tho. Fairfax:

From the first of *August* to the seventh of the same.

Wherein is expressed the apprehending and the dispersing the Club-men: Together with what hath passed at *Sherburne*-Castle.

Sent from M. *Bender* (Chaplain to Sir *Thomas Fairfax*) to a friend of his in *London*, and dated at *Sherburne*, August 7.

Published according to Order.

LONDON,
Printed for *Samuel Gellibrand*. 11. Aug. 1645.

The Proceedings of the Army under the command of Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, from the first of *Auguſt* to the ſeventh.

Auguſt. 1. After the taking of *Bath*, with which the laſt moneth was happily cloſed, the Generall gave order for the ſetling a Garriſon there, ſo ſtrong as that it might bee a check to *Briſtoll*; whereupon Colonell *Pinches* and Colonell *Wallers* Regiments of foot were ordered to remaine at *Bath*, and three Regiments of Horſe, *viz.* Colonell *Butlers*, Colonell *Cookes*, and Colonell *Pophams* appointed to quarter thereabouts, that they might joyne together for the blocking up or ſtraitning of *Briſtoll*. The Generall returned this day to *Wells* to the reſt of the Army.

From *Wells* Aug. 2. we marched toward *Sherborne*; the head quarter was at *Queene Carnell*, but the Generall impatient of ſtaying there when he had forces engaged againſt *Sherborne-Caſtle*, which was but foure miles diſtance, rode away to *Sherborne* that night, and quartered at Maſter *Kings* houſe a Lawyer, who out of a needleſſe feare of our Army betooke himſelfe to the Caſtle, where hee was ſhot, and ſince died.

Aug. 3. The Lords day was kept at *Sherborne*, as we have hitherto, through Gods providence, conſtantly and carefully done; onely the Leaders of the Clubmen interrupted our reſt, being met at *Shaftsbury* the day before they were

apprehended by a ſtrong of Horſe commanded by Colonell *Fleetwood*, who this day brought them ſafe to *Sherborne*: the number of them was about fourty, many ſcarce worth the naming, the moſt notorious and active were M. *Young*, M. *Hoskins*, M. *Hollis*, Dr. *Goche*, *Crudock* of *Blandford*, &c. of theſe more hereafter when the Examinations are perfected.

Aug. 4. On Munday morning, notice being given that the Club-men had appointed ſeverall meetings, Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell* was ſent with foure Regiments of Horſe to look after them, and to enquire an account of their actions. As the Partee was marching toward *Shaftsbury*, they diſcovered ſome Colours upon the top of a high hill full of wood, and almoſt inacceſſible; a Lieutenant with a ſmall party was ſent to them to know their meaning, and to acquaint them that the Lieutenant-Generall of the Army was there. Whereupon their Leader, Maſter *Newman*, thought fit to come downe, and told us, The intent was to deſire to know why the Gentlemen were taken at *Shaftsbury* on Saturday. The Lieutenant-Generall returned him this anſwer; That he held himſelfe not bound to give him or them an account; what was done, was by authority, and they that did it were not reſponſible to them that had none. But not to leave them wholly unſatisfied, hee told him, That thoſe perſons ſo met had beene the occaſions and ſtirrers of many tumultuous and unlawfull meetings, for which they were to be tried by Law, which triall ought not by them to be queſtioned or interrupted. Maſter *Newman* deſired to goe up to returne the Anſwer. The Lieutenant-Generall with a ſmall party went with him, and had ſome conference with the people to this purpoſe, That whereas they pretended to meet there to ſave their goods, they tooke a very ill courſe for that, for to leave their

houſes

houſes was the way to loſe their goods, and it was offered them that Juſtice ſhould bee done upon any who offered them violence: and as for the Gentlemen taken at *Shaftſbury*, it was only to anſwer ſome things they were accuſed of contrary to Law and the Peace of the Kingdome. The men were well ſatisfied and promiſed to returne to their houſes, and accordingly did ſo.

After this the Lieutenant-Generall with his partee marched to *Hawelton-Hill* neere *Shrawton*, at the bottom of the hill we met a man with a Muſket, asked whither he was going? he ſaid to the Club Army; what he meant to doe? he asked what we had to doe with that; being required to lay down his Armes, he ſaid, He would firſt loſe his life, but was not ſo good as his word, for though he cock't and preſented his Muſket, he was prevented, diſ-armed, and wounded, but not killed. Then we marched up the hill, which had beene an old Roman worke deeply trenched. The Lieutenant Generall ſent before a Lieutenant with a partee of Horſe, to require an account of their meeting, he was anſwered with halfe a dozen ſhot, and could get no other Anſwer; thereupon one Maſter *Lee*, who upon our approach came from them, was ſent in, requiring them to ſubmit to the power and protection of Parliament, and lay downe their Arms: They refuſed to leave their Armes, and gave us a ſhot as we were drawing up; The Lievt. Generall unwilling to bloodſhed, ſent Maſter *Lee* againe to tell them, that if they would not lay downe their Arms, he would fall upon them: They refuſed this third Meſſage alſo, through the inſtigation of Maſter *Bravell*, Miniſter of *Compton*, who told them they muſt ſtand to it now rather then looſe their Armes, and that he would Piſtoll them that gave back.

Thereupon order was given to the Generals Troope to fall on; who did ſo, and received a repulſe and ſome loſſe

through

through the disadvantage of the place, for the Clubmen shot from the banke, and kept the passage with Muskets and other weapons, which was no broader then for three Horse to march in one brest: at this charge we lost a man or two, had eight or nine wounded, sixe or seven Horses killed; Then Major *Disbrough* with his Troope went round upon a ledge of the hill, and made a hard shift to climbe up and enter on their reare, and then they ran, and the passage formerly mentioned was opened likewise, and all the Clubmen dispersed and disarmed; as we are since informed, sixtie of them killed, we brought away 400. of them to *Shrawton*, of which neare 200. were wounded. In this Skirmish Captaine *Palfen* a very gallant man was sorely hurt on our part, and about twelve more. We found among them about 16. of our men, whom they had disarmed and taken Prisoners, and intended to hang some of them, but the Tables are turned.

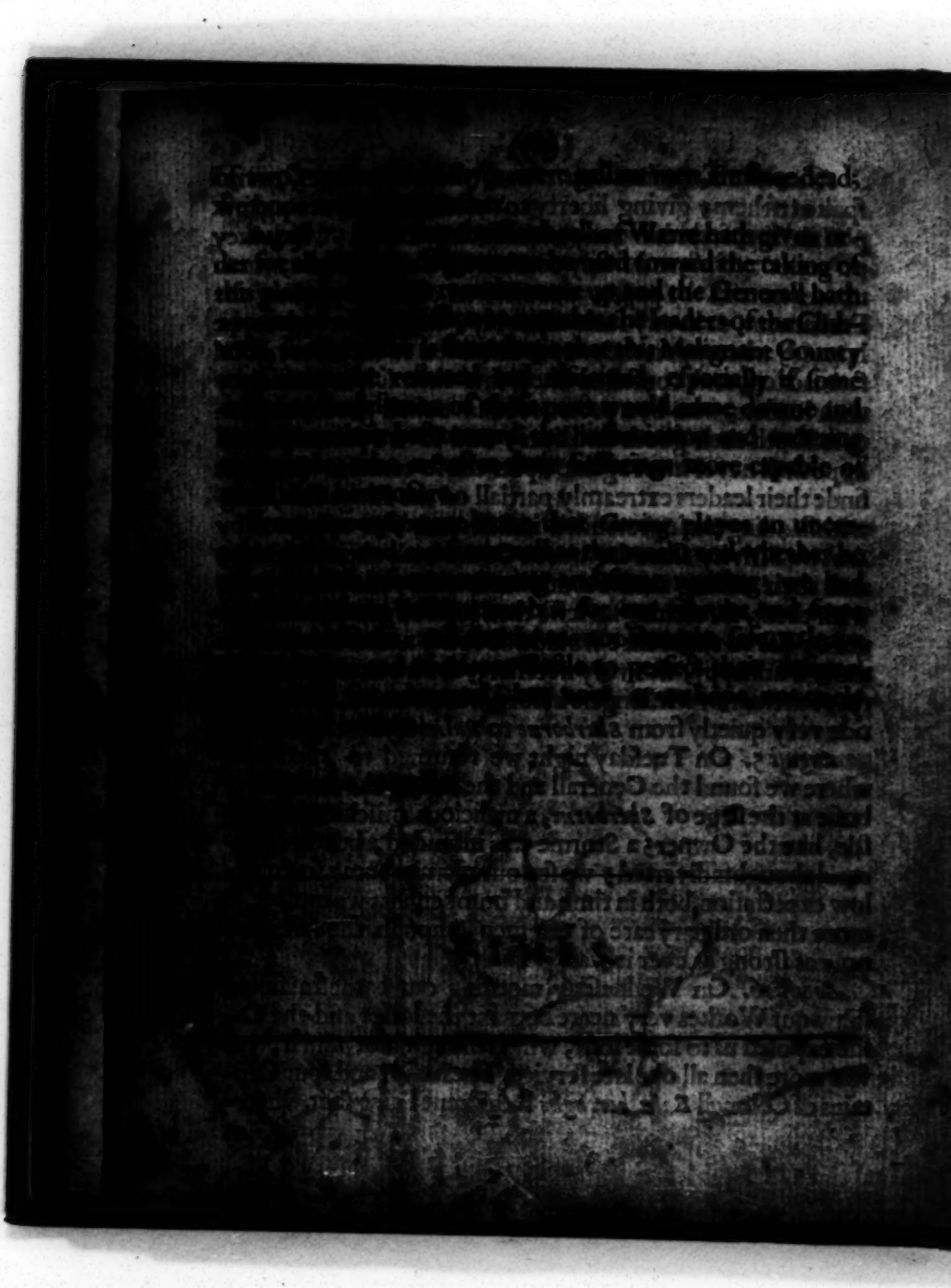
We quartered that night at *Shrawton*, and kept the Clubmen in the Church, and with them foure Vicars and Curates tooke with them upon the hill, but at no Divine Service I can affure you, whereof Master *Talbot* of *Milton* was one, and *Langford* of *Buckford* the worst.

The next day *August* 5. we tooke their names, and their examinations, who were their leaders, and what the grounds of their meeting were, which they freely discovered, and confessed Master *Bovell* the Minister of *Compton* sent out the Warrants, and the intent was, as appeares by a Warrant from Master *Rogers* of *Langton*, gallantly to demand their Countrymen, or to take so many Prisoners as should release them (as the Warrant names) and that they had laid downe their Armes and submitted, had it not been for *Bravell* and *White* and *Langford*; and that they sent to *Wiltshire* men to come joine with them, whose journey is now stopt.

After

After the Examinations taken, the Lievtenant Generall spake to them, giving liberty to defend themselves against plundering, forbidding any more such meetings; which they protested against, and freely confessed, if any of them, whose names were in the paper, were taken against opposing the Parliament, or in any such assembly, they deserved to be hanged, whereupon they were dismissed to their very good satisfaction, and confessed they saw themselves misled by their leaders, who by a pretence to save their goods, endangered both their goods and lives; and so we parted, and I hope shall never meet againe upon those names: But wee finde their leaders extreamly partiall on the Kings side, notwithstanding their pretended indifferency, as appeares by *Bruvels* activity since he was at Court with their Petition, and their calling men Roundheads that refused to joine with them, threatning no lesse then losse of goods, and danger of life to them that would not come: and this worke though unhappy, was very necessary, for we could find neither Parties nor Messengers before, whereas now a man may ride very quietly from *Sherborne* to *Salisbury*.

August 5. On Tuesday night we returned to *Sherborne*, where we found the Generall and the rest of the Army very busie at the siege of *Sherborne*, a malicious mischievous Castle, like the Owner; a Storme was intended, but upon second thoughts diverted; we see our recruits come so far below expectation, both in time and number, that we must take more then ordinary care of our men, though the Army be now as strong as ever it was.

August. 6. On Wednesday morning our earnestnesse to draw our Workes very neare betwixt the lodge and the Castle exposed us to some losse, which though not much, yet was more then all our late service, The Major and four Captains of Colonell *Rainsborcughs* Regiment being shot, where-

of